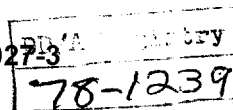


CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

WASHINGTON, D.C. 20505



23 MAR 1978

DD/A Registry
File *Medical*

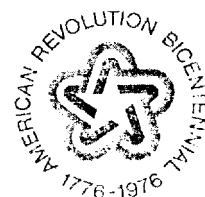
The Honorable John M. Thomas
Assistant Secretary for Administration
Department of State
Washington, D.C. 20520

Dear John:

At the Interagency Committee meeting on March 15 we received for comment a proposal to expand the previously approved draft legislation on health care programs. The change would add a statement authorizing roundtrip travel for a dependent child from the post of assignment to a place where the child's parent is ordered for medical purposes. We strongly support this legislation, but we have certain reservations concerning the language of the proposed draft.

I believe that the term "dependent child" is too broad, since it could apply to anyone under 21 years of age. I understand that some flexibility is needed, but with twenty agencies interpreting the same legislation it would seem that it should be more definitive. We previously proposed such authority for pre-school age children, and based on Mr. Hull's presentation at the meeting last Wednesday we would also agree that there should be a provision for handicapped children. Perhaps we could insert after "child" in the second line, "under age 10 or if handicapped at any age."

I recommend that the paragraph be concluded by stating "....in the judgment of the agency head, the child cannot remain at the post because of a lack of parental supervision." I believe that we should not refer to "providing supervision" at the post because the inclusion of this language in legislation could infer some responsibility on the part of the post to provide supervision, as well as some official obligation on the part of the individual who agrees to supervise the children during the absence of the parent. This should be a personal responsibility of the parent.



At the meeting a question was raised as to whether the legislation could be interpreted or expanded to authorize a child to return to the United States to visit relatives if for some reason the child cannot accompany the parent who is being authorized to travel for medical purposes. The proposed language states "from the post of assignment to a place where the child's parent is ordered for medical purposes." That language is very specific and we recommend that it be retained. We do not believe that it should be expanded to authorize children to go to some other point for several reasons. First, if a child cannot stay at the post, and if he cannot accompany the parent, how could we assume that he could travel alone to visit a relative? We would immediately be faced with a requirement to authorize escort travel simply to accompany the child. Second, if travel can be authorized to some point in the United States to visit a relative, why not some other country? This is much too broad an obligation for the Government to undertake. If there is a problem that is so critical that a child cannot stay with one of the parents, we believe the solution is to move the family as a unit rather than undertake random or piecemeal actions.

Sincerely,

/s/ Jack

John F. Blake
Deputy Director
for
Administration



STATINTL

SSA-DDA

vld (3-23-78)

Distribution:

- Orig - Delivered to Walter Weiss
- Allow. Staff, Dept. of State
- 1 - DDA subj
- 1 - DDA chron
- 1 - SSA-DDA subj
- 1 - SSA-DDA chron

UNCLASSIFIED		CONFIDENTIAL		SECRET	
OFFICIAL ROUTING SLIP					
TO	NAME AND ADDRESS		DATE	INITIALS	
1	Mr. Blake		MAR 1978	<i>[Signature]</i>	
2					
3					
4	<i>[Signature]</i>				
5					
6					
ACTION		DIRECT REPLY		PREPARE REPLY	
APPROVAL		DISPATCH		RECOMMENDATION	
COMMENT		FILE		RETURN	
CONCURRENCE		INFORMATION		SIGNATURE	
Remarks: <p>Attached is a piece of draft legislation handed out at the Interagency Committee meeting last week, and a draft response for your review. This was actually our suggestion in the first place, but the Personnel Office in State (which is not under John Thomas) has expanded it too far. AID is taking the same position we are, and the Allowances Staff agrees with the substance of the attached draft. When you give me your comments, I will have it prepared as a letter to John.</p> <p style="text-align: right;">Brad</p> <p>P.S.: They have asked for a response by 1 April.</p>					
FOLD HERE TO RETURN TO SENDER					
FROM: NAME, ADDRESS AND PHONE NO.				DATE	
UNCLASSIFIED		CONFIDENTIAL		SECRET	

Add the following sentence at the end of Section 4 of the draft bill to authorize a health program for all Federal employees abroad

Such regulations may also authorize roundtrip travel for a dependent child from the post of assignment to a place where the child's parent is ordered for medical purposes when, in the judgment of the agency head, the child is incapable of remaining unsupervised for extended periods and necessary supervision can not be provided at the post of assignment.

John

At the Interagency Committee meeting on March 15 we received for comment a proposal to expand the previously approved draft legislation on health care programs, *the change would* by adding a statement authorizing roundtrip travel for a dependent child from the post of assignment to a place where the child's parent is ordered for medical purposes. We strongly support this legislation, but we have certain reservations concerning the language of the proposed draft.

I believe that the term "dependent child" is too broad, since it could apply to anyone under 21 years of age. I understand that some flexibility is needed, but with twenty agencies interpreting the same legislation it would seem that ~~the legisla-~~^{it} ~~tion~~ should be more definitive. We previously proposed such authority for pre-school age children, and based on Mr. Hull's presentation at the meeting last Wednesday we would also agree that there should be a provision for handicapped children. Perhaps we could insert after "child" in the second line, "under age 10 or if handicapped at any age."

I recommend that the paragraph be concluded by stating "*** in the judgment of the agency head, the child cannot remain at the post ~~because~~ because of a lack of parental supervision." I believe that we should not refer to "providing supervision" at the post because the inclusion of this *language* ~~aspect~~ in legislation could ~~perhaps~~ infer some responsibility on the part of the post to provide supervision, as well as some official obligation on the part of the ^{individual} party who agrees to supervise the children during the absence of the parent. This should be a personal responsibility of the parent.

At the meeting a question was raised as to whether the legislation could be interpreted or expanded to authorize a child to return to the United States to visit relatives if for some reason ^{THE CHILD} ~~he/she~~ cannot accompany the parent who is being authorized to travel for medical purposes. The proposed language states "from the post of assignment to a place where the child's parent is ordered for medical purposes." That language is very specific and we recommend that it be retained. We do not believe that it should be expanded to authorize children to go to some other point for several reasons. First, if ^{the} ~~the~~ child cannot stay at the post, and if he cannot accompany the parent, how could we assume that he could travel alone to visit a relative? We would immediately be faced with a requirement to authorize escort travel simply to accompany the child. Second, if travel can be authorized to some point in the United States to visit a relative, why not some other country? This is much too broad an obligation for the Government to undertake. If there is a problem that is so critical that ^{the} ~~the~~ child cannot stay with ~~one~~ ^{one}

^{IF THE} parents, we believe the solution is to move the family as a unit rather than ~~split them up~~. ~~UNDERTAKE~~ ^{RANDOM} OR ^{PIECEMEAL} ACTIONS.